

Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano

Update on Education and Youth

Local High School Student Artists Honored



Napolitano presents Congressional Certificate to 38th District Art Contest winner Andres Carlos

Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano recognized winners of the 38th District 2004 Congressional Art Contest on May 1 at the Norwalk Cultural Arts Center. **First place winner, Andres Carlos**, joined winners from across the country at a special event in the U.S. Capitol on July 13. His artwork, “Army Guys,” will remain on display in the Capitol for one year. Works

by **second place winner Maribeli Nava** (“Man and Woman”) and **3rd place winner Emmanuel Gutierrez** (“Hidden”) are on display in the Congresswoman’s Capitol and district offices respectively. All participating students received “Certificates of Congressional Recognition” and pens with the House of Representatives’ seal.

Art teacher, Christine Longstaffe, stated, “The students look forward to this competition. In a time when school programs are being cut and the focus is not on promoting the arts, it is important to have this recognition. It makes the students work harder, knowing that they will be recognized.”

“**Judges’ Choice**” awards went to: Stephanie Granados and Rudy Ledesma of Garey H.S. and Wendy

Llamas of Pomona H.S. **Honorable Mention** went to: Jonathan Arriaza of Diamond Ranch H.S., Edgar Gamino of La Puente H.S., Natalie Gonzalez, Lawrence Jaime and Daniela Mendoza of Garey H.S., and Giselle Ruiz of St. Matthias H.S.

Over 150 students in the 38th District submitted works for the contest. World renowned artist Cao Wang, Santa Fe Springs Assistant City Manager Marina Sueiro, and La Puente High School Principal Guillermo Chavez were judges. “I thank the students who entered artwork, and I am proud of their talent and dedication. We need to continue programs to show our children’s great talent,” concluded Napolitano. Please visit www.napolitano.house.gov to view examples of winning artwork.

Child Nutrition Legislative Update

In June, Napolitano supported House passage of the bipartisan Child Nutrition and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act: “This bill will help more needy children access federal nutrition programs. My Democratic colleagues and I wanted to include stronger provisions to fight child obesity, but we are pleased that the bill does take important first steps to fight this epidemic.”

Reauthorization Act:

Key Provisions of the Child Nutrition and WIC

- Reduces paperwork burden on parents and school administrators for school lunch and breakfast program.
- Makes grants available for schools to begin or expand breakfast programs.
- Authorizes a pilot program through WIC to provide greater access to fruits and vegetables as a way to combat obesity.
- Requires school districts to establish a wellness policy that includes nutritional guidelines for food sold in schools, increased physical activity and nutrition education.
- Provides training and technical assistance resources to schools to improve understanding of good nutrition and to help students make healthier food choices.
- Allows 3 more states to participate in the School Fruit and Vegetable pilot program, which provides more fruits and vegetables to students in low income school districts.
- Provides grants for outreach and education on obesity prevention activities to communities with high Limited English Proficiency populations.

Preventing Gang Violence

Rep. Napolitano is working to secure funds for the Pomona area to combat gang violence:

- Supporting “COPS in Schools” grant request currently pending before the U.S. Department of Justice. This grant would allow Pomona to hire School Resource Officers (SRO’s) to patrol schools and surrounding areas, and to bring together schools and law enforcement to coordinate anti-gang efforts.
- Secured \$150,000 to upgrade the Pomona Police Department’s communication system and continues to request additional funding for this project.

Her office has participated in city meetings to learn from residents, help address critical issues, and emphasize that youth mental health services, education and job training are key components of any comprehensive strategy to address youth gang problems.



Key Youth/Education Legislation

Congresswoman Napolitano is a co-sponsor of the following bills to improve and expand educational opportunities for the 38th district:

H.R. 4769, would prevent cuts to Title I; deals with funding to improve math and reading skills of disadvantaged youth.

H.R. 4102, the Access and Equity in Higher Education Act, would increase funding for federally subsidized loans, provide greater flexibility in loan repayment and expand loan forgiveness opportunities if service is rendered in the public sector after graduation.

H.R. 3968, the Part-time Student Assistance Act, would help part-time/non-traditional students complete higher education by providing year-round financial aid, childcare and grants to colleges and universities to implement creative programs geared toward part-time students.

U.S. Department of Education Resources

Homework Help

<http://www.ed.gov/free/index.html>

Career Colleges and Trade Schools

<http://www.ed.gov/students/prep/college/consumerinfo/index.html>

Adults Returning to High School or College

<http://www.ed.gov/students/grad/adult/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

Federally Funded After School Programs in Your Area

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/schools/after/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

Resources for Students and Families with Limited English Proficiency

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/needs/english/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

Special Education and Students with Disabilities

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

Help Your Child Learn to Read

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

Youth Not Receiving Needed Care

A July 2004 report by Democrats on the House Government Affairs Committee found that more than 15,000 children with psychiatric disorders were incarcerated last year because there were no mental health services available. The children were as young as seven, and represented 8% of all incarcerated youth.

To address this problem, Rep. Napolitano recently led a Congressional Mental Health Caucus effort to move the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, H.R. 2387, through the House Judiciary Committee and to the House floor. Companion legislation has passed the Senate. H.R. 2387 would provide grants for criminal justice agencies and mental health agencies to work collaboratively. Grants could be used to establish mental health courts, create or expand community-based treatment programs, or provide in-jail treatment and transitional services.

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Congressional Pages

Rep. Napolitano was recently able to nominate her first high school student to be a congressional page. Due to House scheduling, we cannot predict what year this opportunity will be available again. The Page Program allows young people to learn about the legislative process and serve their country by assisting with daily operations in the House.

Applicants must be high school juniors at least 16 years old by the start of the program, have maintained a minimum GPA of 3.0, and be either a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.

Pages attend the House of Representatives Page School, where they continue their eleventh grade studies as well as learn about House operations. Pages live in the Page Residence Hall and are supervised around the clock by a full-time staff. Pages are paid employees, and their room and board fees are deducted from their monthly paycheck.

Serving as a Page is an enriching learning experience that a student will always treasure. Several Members of Congress began their careers by serving as Pages.

For more information, interested students should contact Amelia Wang at 562-801-2134 or visit www.napolitano.house.gov.

Capitol Interns Learn Political Process and Key Issues



Rep. Napolitano discusses House procedures with Capitol office interns (L-R) Abel Sun (Hacienda Heights), Susan Reyes (La Puente) and Bianca Soto (La Puente). For more information on becoming an intern, please contact Kate Krause at 202-225-5256 (Capitol office) or Amelia Wang at 562-801-2134 (district office).



**M.C.
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*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.